

UPDATE

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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Quotable Quote

**"Knowledge is the
antidote to fear."**

— Ralph Waldo Emerson



President signs 2005 National Defense Authorization Act

**Article courtesy of
U.S. Air Force Policy Letter Digest**

The fiscal 2005 National Defense Authorization Act provides the equipment the American military needs to fight the war on terror.

The act, signed by President George W. Bush, provides both equipment the military needs today and the seed money to design and build equipment the military will need in the future.

The NDAA authorizes the Department of Defense to spend \$420.6 billion to continue the transformation of the military to face future challenges and to fight the global war on terrorism.

The bill's highlights:

* Creates a new healthcare benefit for members of the reserve component by authorizing TRICARE coverage for reserve members who have served on extended active duty.

* Authorizes an increase in the Survivor Benefit Plan annuity that will be phased in over 3.5 years and, by 2008, eliminate the existing "two tier" system.

* Approves permanent eligibility for up to 90 days of TRICARE coverage for reserve members and their families prior to mobilization, and 180 days of transitional health benefits for reserves, active duty members, and their families when the member separates from active duty service.

* Authorizes a new program of educa-

See "Act" on page 4

Commentary

They were there all along

by Airman 1st Class Lauren Sixbey
90th Space Wing Public Affairs

F.E. WARREN AIR FORCE BASE, Wyo. (AFPN) — For no apparent reason, a co-worker asked to speak with me in his office. After the door clicked shut he said, "Word on the street is you're not doing so well."

I was floored. How could I have let it show? I'd been doing such a good job of hiding it. The past three months of carefully shrouding my thoughts and true feelings were being called out on the carpet. I didn't know what to say. Then a feeling of relief washed over me.

Three and a half months earlier I had said goodbye to my husband, a Marine deploying to Camp Fallujah, Iraq, for seven months.

I will never forget our last moments together. It wasn't like I thought it would be. In the movies there are dozens, if not hundreds of people saying their goodbyes as well. There is somber yet heroic music being played in the background and there are tears a plenty.

When we arrived at Camp Pendleton, Calif., in the middle of the night on Aug. 7, there were no more than 15 other Marines and only one other wife. A burly staff sergeant was there barking orders. We spent nearly an hour just getting his things in order. He was busy getting his weapon and ammo issued, while I tagged his sea bags and picked up his three MREs.

When there was nothing else to do but wait, we sat in near silence on the cold pavement and held each other knowing it would be more than half a year before we'd be able to see each other again. Neither of us cried then, probably because we didn't want to draw the attention of the other Marines. All of the sudden the same staff sergeant who was issuing orders yelled, "Devil Dogs, get on the bus!"

According to my husband's itinerary he wasn't supposed to leave for another hour. I easily forgave the staff sergeant though.

It was an excruciating time and I was almost relieved that the horrible goodbye was over.

I went to work the following Monday morning like nothing had happened. I put on a brave and cheerful face so that no one would guess my anguish. Unfortunately it worked. Everyday I went to work my co-workers asked me how I was doing. I smiled and always gave a similar positive response. I have always been good at hiding emotions.

After an especially difficult few months, dealing with my husband's deployment and a particularly hard personal issue, I was at the end of my rope. There are no support groups for someone like me who is in an inter-service marriage without a joint spouse assignment. I sunk into a depression unlike any I'd ever experienced.

On Nov. 12, during Air Force Space Command's Wingman Focus Day, I acted like everything was fine as usual. The office staff went to the club for lunch and to play pool. The following Monday was when my co-worker talked to me.

I don't know what came over me, but at that moment everything that had been held up inside for the past three and a half months came spilling out.

He sat there patiently listening to me. Before I left the room he set up an appointment for me to talk to one of our chaplains the same day. I always knew that chaplains were there for us, but I didn't think my problems were severe enough to merit getting help. The calmness I felt as I left the chapel that day was incredible.

Neither my co-worker nor the chaplain judged me. My greatest fear was unfounded. If only I hadn't been so afraid a few months ago, I probably would have spared myself a lot of pain. I don't know if it was our focus day that prompted my co-worker's concern or if it was something he had been thinking about for a while, but I'm glad he took the time out to help me.

I know that the next few months will be much easier than the last few because I have got a support system all around me. They have been there the entire time, I just never noticed.

Air Force News

If you aren't looking at the United States Air Force Online News, you aren't getting all of the news. Check out your other Air Force newspaper at www.af.mil/news.



Air Reserve Personnel

UPDATE

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The Secretary's Vector

The Honor to Serve

by **Dr. James G. Roche**
Secretary of the Air Force

Nearly four years ago, President George W. Bush asked me to serve as the Secretary of the Air Force, a great honor which I humbly accepted. My intention has been from the beginning, to serve for one term and then return to private life. That is why I have asked President Bush to accept my resignation as your Secretary, effective Jan. 20.

Although Diane and I look forward to the next phase of our lives, it is with a heavy heart that I leave the Air Force I have come to respect and love. I could not have led a better team. Together, we have achieved great successes at an epic time in the history of our country. During this time, I have had the pleasure of working with Airmen who personify all that is good about America. And, America's Airmen have had the absolute best uniformed leader, our Chief of Staff, Gen. John Jumper, who has become my sounding board, my partner, and my good friend.

Shortly after General Jumper and I began our partnership, our country was attacked. Since then, we have adapted the Air Force to the new nature of warfare while engaging and defeating our enemies. Together with our fellow services, we have enabled freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq and put terrorist foes on the run. Because of the air and space power you generate, our nation remains secure.

After discussing the issue with Secretary Rumsfeld in early October, I voluntarily submitted my resignation on Nov. 16, for three reasons.

First, it has always been my intention to serve only one term in this office. By announcing my resignation now, this allows sufficient time for a qualified successor to be identified and confirmed.

Second, my departure early next year will allow the new secretary to take office while General Jumper remains chief of staff, avoiding the disruption that could occur should a new secretary and chief assume office at the same time.

Finally, I hope that my departure at this time will allow Congress and the Air Force to concentrate on vital matters, such as confirmation of senior leaders. I am concerned that many of our major commands and combatant commands have been left in a state of uncertainty. Airmen and other warfighters are in combat with our country's enemies — we must have stable leadership in place. You deserve that, and I will do whatever I must to ensure this occurs.

I want every member of the United States Air Force to know that I will always remain an Airman. I am proud to have served with you in the world's greatest air and space force.

Although I leave this office, I will continue to do all that I can to advocate and support our nation's Airmen, and you will always be in my heart. Diane and I wish each of you clear skies, a strong tailwind, and success in all you do. God bless America and the United States Air Force.



Dr. James G. Roche

Air Force Reserve Command names new vice commander

Maj. Gen. David E. Tanzi will return to Robins Air Force Base, Ga., this month to serve as vice commander of Air Force Reserve Command. The commander of 10th Air Force will replace Maj. Gen. John J. Batbie Jr., who will retire after he relinquishes his post to General Tanzi Jan. 21. General Tanzi has commanded 10th Air Force, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, since March 2002. From February 1999 to March 2002, he was director of plans and programs at Headquarters AFRC.



Maj. Gen. David E. Tanzi

2005 reserve pay for one drill

| Pay Grade | 1 Drill | 2 or less | Over 2 | Over 3 | Over 4 | Over 6 | Over 8 | Over 10 | Over 12 | Over 14 | Over 16 | Over 18 | Over 20 | Over 22 | Over 24 | Over 26 |
|------------------------|---------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| O-7 | 1 Drill | \$222.20 | \$232.52 | \$237.30 | \$241.10 | \$247.97 | \$254.75 | \$262.61 | \$270.45 | \$278.30 | \$302.98 | \$323.82 | \$323.82 | \$323.82 | \$323.82 | \$325.46 |
| O-6 | 1 Drill | \$164.69 | \$180.93 | \$192.80 | \$192.80 | \$193.53 | \$201.83 | \$202.93 | \$202.93 | \$214.46 | \$234.85 | \$246.82 | \$258.78 | \$265.59 | \$272.47 | \$285.85 |
| O-5 | 1 Drill | \$137.29 | \$154.66 | \$165.37 | \$167.38 | \$174.05 | \$178.06 | \$186.85 | \$193.30 | \$201.62 | \$214.37 | \$220.44 | \$226.44 | \$233.25 | \$233.25 | \$233.25 |
| O-4 | 1 Drill | \$118.46 | \$137.13 | \$146.28 | \$148.32 | \$156.81 | \$165.92 | \$177.25 | \$186.09 | \$192.22 | \$195.74 | \$197.79 | \$197.79 | \$197.79 | \$197.79 | \$197.79 |
| O-3 | 1 Drill | \$104.15 | \$118.07 | \$127.44 | \$138.94 | \$145.59 | \$152.89 | \$157.62 | \$165.40 | \$169.44 | \$169.44 | \$169.44 | \$169.44 | \$169.44 | \$169.44 | \$169.44 |
| O-2 | 1 Drill | \$89.98 | \$102.49 | \$118.04 | \$122.03 | \$124.54 | \$124.54 | \$124.54 | \$124.54 | \$124.54 | \$124.54 | \$124.54 | \$124.54 | \$124.54 | \$124.54 | \$124.54 |
| O-1 | 1 Drill | \$78.12 | \$81.30 | \$98.27 | \$98.27 | \$98.27 | \$98.27 | \$98.27 | \$98.27 | \$98.27 | \$98.27 | \$98.27 | \$98.27 | \$98.27 | \$98.27 | \$98.27 |
| O-3E | 1 Drill | | | | \$138.94 | \$145.59 | \$152.89 | \$157.62 | \$165.40 | \$171.95 | \$175.70 | \$180.82 | | | | |
| O-2E | 1 Drill | | | | \$122.03 | \$124.54 | \$128.51 | \$135.19 | \$140.37 | \$144.22 | \$144.22 | \$144.22 | | | | |
| O-1E | 1 Drill | | | | \$98.27 | \$104.96 | \$108.83 | \$112.79 | \$116.69 | \$122.03 | \$122.03 | \$122.03 | | | | |
| E-9 | 1 Drill | | | | | | | \$130.04 | \$132.99 | \$136.70 | \$141.08 | \$145.47 | \$152.53 | \$158.50 | \$164.79 | \$174.39 |
| E-8 | 1 Drill | | | | | | \$106.45 | \$111.16 | \$114.07 | \$117.57 | \$121.35 | \$128.18 | \$131.64 | \$137.53 | \$140.80 | \$148.84 |
| E-7 | 1 Drill | \$74.00 | \$80.77 | \$83.86 | \$87.96 | \$91.15 | \$96.65 | \$99.74 | \$102.82 | \$108.32 | \$111.08 | \$113.69 | \$115.29 | \$120.68 | \$124.17 | \$133.00 |
| E-6 | 1 Drill | \$64.01 | \$70.42 | \$73.53 | \$76.55 | \$79.70 | \$86.81 | \$89.57 | \$92.64 | \$95.33 | \$96.29 | \$96.94 | \$96.94 | \$96.94 | \$96.94 | \$96.94 |
| E-5 | 1 Drill | \$58.65 | \$62.57 | \$65.59 | \$68.69 | \$73.51 | \$77.66 | \$80.72 | \$81.69 | \$81.69 | \$81.69 | \$81.69 | \$81.69 | \$81.69 | \$81.69 | \$81.69 |
| E-4 | 1 Drill | \$53.76 | \$56.52 | \$59.57 | \$62.59 | \$65.26 | \$65.26 | \$65.26 | \$65.26 | \$65.26 | \$65.26 | \$65.26 | \$65.26 | \$65.26 | \$65.26 | \$65.26 |
| E-3 | 1 Drill | \$48.54 | \$51.59 | \$54.70 | \$54.70 | \$54.70 | \$54.70 | \$54.70 | \$54.70 | \$54.70 | \$54.70 | \$54.70 | \$54.70 | \$54.70 | \$54.70 | \$54.70 |
| E-2 | 1 Drill | \$46.15 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E-1 (4mos ACDU+) | 1 Drill | \$41.17 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Act from page 1

tional assistance to members of the selected reserve, providing varying amounts of aid depending on the length of time mobilized.

- * Authorizes immediate concurrent receipt, without phase in, of military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation for retirees who are rated at 100 percent disabled.

- * Authorizes use of federal write-in ballots for absentee military voters in the United States.

- * Fully funds an across-the-board 3.5 percent military pay.

- * Eliminates the out-of-pocket costs for family housing.

- * Provides for incentive pay and enlistment and reenlistment bonuses.

- * Provides \$4.1 billion for 24 F/A-22 Raptors and \$3 billion for 14 C-17 Globemaster III cargo aircraft.

- * Funds three CV-22 special operations aircraft for the Air Force.

- * Authorizes a multiyear procurement for 100 new aerial refueling aircraft.

- * Authorizes an additional \$50 million for unmanned systems science and technology programs to ensure interoperability, continue development of autonomous capabilities, and establish joint standards and testing.

Act increases bonuses, education benefits for reserve

by Kathleen T. Rhem

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Increased education benefits and more flexibility in awarding bonuses are among the quality-of-life improvements targeting National Guard and Reserve servicemembers in the 2005 National Defense Authorization Act.

The act also provides for changes in how guardsmen and reservists are mobilized and deployed.

"I am encouraged that the (Defense) Department, working with Congress, has enacted a number of provisions that will fundamentally change the nature of guard and reserve service," said Thomas Hall, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs Nov. 3.

He explained many changes contained in the authorization act were vital to bring reserve component benefits more in line with active duty benefits, particularly since troops from both components are generally serving side by side in combat zones.

"We had a much different benefit structure for the guard and reserve and active duty, which was all right when you're not mobilized and when you're in a drilling status," Mr. Hall said. "But when you are mobilized and you're serving ... in the foxhole alongside your active duty brethren, we have to ask, 'Are the benefits the very same?' And they haven't been."

See "Increase" on page 5

Increase from page 4

One significant change concerns various types of bonuses and proficiency pay. The act generally doubles or triples reserve component bonuses, bringing them closer to active duty amounts. It allows reenlistment bonuses to be paid more than once and to be paid in a lump sum.

The act also covers an accession/affiliation bonus of up to \$6,000 for reserve officers, changes rules concerning foreign-language proficiency pay and adds a \$2,000 bonus for reserve component servicemembers who convert to a critical skill.

In the past, education benefits for reserve component troops were considerably below those for active duty troops, even when reserve servicemembers were activated for extended periods. That is now changed, based on how long a reserve servicemember is activated, Mr. Hall said.

Servicemembers who have been activated more than 90 consecutive days will now receive 40 percent of the active duty monthly rate under the Montgomery G.I. Bill, or \$401 a month for those attending school full time.

The rate goes up to \$602, 60 percent of the active duty rate, for those activated more than one year. For those reserve component servicemembers activated at least two years, the rate jumps to 80 percent of the active duty rate, or \$803 per month.

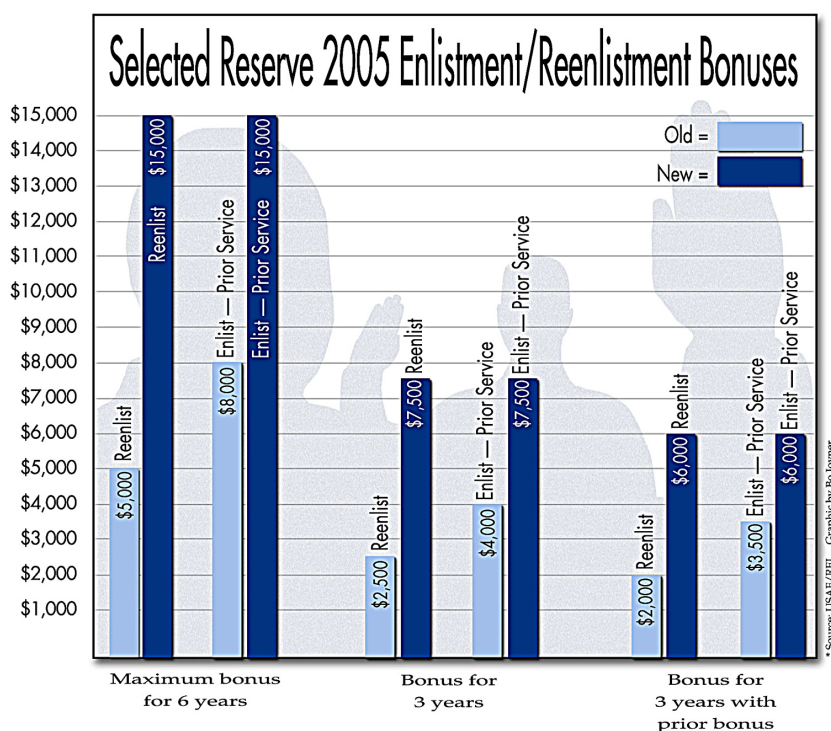
Active duty servicemembers must generally serve at least a four-year enlistment to earn full benefits under the Montgomery G.I. Bill.

Mr. Hall said he hopes to see education benefits increase also for those drilling reservists who are not activated.

Other significant changes contained in this year's authorization act concern how reserve component servicemembers are mobilized and how they are managed while they are mobilized.

The act now allows the military services to mobilize their reserve servicemembers for training. In the past, a common scenario was to activate guardsmen or reservists, send them away from home for training, and then deploy them to an operational mission.

"Well, in many cases what that involves is that the mobilization process is not necessarily just 12 months boots on the ground," Mr. Hall said. "It might extend up to 18 months. And, of course, that's time in which guardsmen and reservists are away from



their families and employers."

New rules contained in the act allow reserve servicemembers to be activated just for training, then demobilized until they are needed for operational missions.

"What we hope to do is cut down the total amount of mobilization because we can do training when it's available, when the guardsman wants it and when their employer wants it," Mr. Hall said. "That is a huge change that I think will help the mobilization process. I think it's welcomed by our components, and it's welcomed by the individual guardsmen and reservists."

This authorization act also eliminates the so-called "180-day rule." Under previous accounting guidelines, reserve component servicemembers who were mobilized for more than 179 days had to be counted against active duty statistics, Mr. Hall said. This particularly caused problems in terms of end-strength goals and ceilings on specific pay grades.

Mr. Hall said the new rules better satisfy the needs of the reserve component and the active duty services.

"The rules we had were good for another time and another place," he said. "But this is transformational; it's more integration and a great step forward."

Freedom Award nomination period begins

The nomination period for the 2005 Secretary of Defense Employer Support

Freedom Awards is now open! Military leaders - please forward this

information to your troops ASAP and encourage them to nominate their outstanding employers for this prestigious award!

who provide exceptional support to their employees who voluntarily serve the nation in the National Guard and Reserve. The award is the highest in a series of ESGR awards that include the Patriot Award, the Above and Beyond Award, and the Pro Patria Award. The categories for the Freedom Award include: Major Corpo-

The Freedom Award recognizes employers

rations (100 or more employees), Small Corporations (less than 100 employees), and Public Sector (federal, city, state, municipalities, police and fire departments, or any entity funded by tax dollars).

To nominate an employer for this award, go to the ESGR web site at www.esgr.mil or click on the following link to go directly to the nomination form now! <http://www.esgr.org/employers2/onlineFormsFAP2005.asp>

Officials announce distribution dates for tax statements

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFPN) — As the end of the year approaches, Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials announced the schedule for distributing 2004 tax statements. The schedule lists when servicemembers, military retirees, annuitants and defense civilian employees can access their statements through myPay and when they can anticipate receiving a paper copy in the mail.

Customers once again can view, save and print their tax statements from myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

Tax statements will be available as follows:

- Retired Annual Statement: available online Dec. 4 and mailed between Dec. 17 and 29.
- Retired 1099R: available online Dec. 13 and mailed between Dec. 17 and 29.
- Annuitant Annual Statements: available online Dec. 13 and mailed between Dec. 28 and 29.
- Annuitant 1099R: available online Dec. 14 and mailed between Dec. 27 and 29.
- Reserve W2s: available online Dec. 27 and mailed between Jan. 4 and 5.



— Civilian W2s: available online Jan. 6 and mailed between Jan. 10 and 14.

— Active Duty W2s: available online Jan. 14 and mailed between Jan. 18 and 24.

The following statements are available only by mail:

— Special Compensation for Severely Disabled 1099Rs: mailed Dec. 17.

— VSI/SSB W2s: mailed between Jan. 4 and 5.

— Travel W2s: mailed between Jan. 10 and 11.

— Savings Deposit 1099INTs: mailed between Jan. 10 and 11.

“During the months of January, February and March 2004, an average of 1.4 million myPay users viewed their tax statements each month, and we continue to encourage users to view and print their statements online,” said Jim Pitt, director of electronic commerce at DFAS’ military and civilian pay services.

“Earlier access to W-2s and other tax statements is another way myPay gives users control of their pay information.”

Use of “MyPay” for all Air Force reservists now mandatory

MyPay is the DoD system that enables members to take care of routine pay issues without involving their military or civilian pay offices.

The final phase of MyPay has been implemented and Maj. Gen. Batbie, the AFRC vice commander, signed a policy letter Nov. 29 directing mandatory use of MyPay for all Air Force Reservists.

This requirement applies to reserve unit, IMA, and participating IRR members.

Beginning Feb. 1, hard copy Leave and

Earning Statements will no longer be mailed and will only be available via the MyPay Web site <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>

Members who have not done so already are encouraged to obtain a Personal Identification Number for MyPay. Establishing a PIN will allow members access to a variety of pay information and services. The link to obtain a PIN is located approximately halfway down on the left hand column of the MyPay home page and also in

the Frequently Asked Questions section.

To print a readable, one page hard copy of the graphics version of an LES from the MyPay website, visit the FAQ that addresses printing options.

For questions or further information, check the MyPay Web site or call their customer service center at 1-800-390-2348, (216) 522-5122 or DSN 580-5122.

This assistance/customer support is available Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. EST.

Hire vets first

The Department of Labor and the President’s National Hire Veterans Committee has launched “Hire Vets First” campaign. This campaign strives to heighten employer awareness about the employability of veterans.

MilitaryStars is currently working with hundreds of employers who understand the value of military experience and want to hire the best candidates upon their departure from the military.

MilitaryStars is committed to helping veterans keep their career on track by presenting exceptional career opportunities that best complement their background, talents and goals.

The goal is to assist veterans in growing and developing a long-term career with a reputable and respected company.

Members who find themselves or fellow veterans in career transition can visit www.militarystars.com. They offer free services to veteran job seekers including several Military Career Fairs each year that feature some of the top “military friendly” employers in the country, as well as job listings.

CONUS COLA information

Reservists are not entitled to CONUS cost of living allowance for the first 139 days of a call or order to active duty. The exception is a contingency order.

CONUS COLA is only paid to members who are in the commuting area, and is based on the zip code on the orders. Additional information can be found at <http://www.dtic.mil/perdiem/ccola.html>.

New CMSAF insignia debuts Nov. 1

by Tech. Sgt. David A. Jablonski

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — A new chief master sergeant of the Air Force insignia debuted Nov. 1, and stands out as a highly distinguished symbol representative of all Airmen, officials said.

The new insignia contains the Great Seal of the United States of America and two stars in the upper blue field. The chevrons and the laurel wreath surrounding the star in the lower blue field remain unchanged to retain the legacy of the stripe worn by all 14 chief master sergeants of the Air Force.

The decision for the redesign came from a number of factors, officials said. Air Force enlisted insignias have evolved over the years, while maintaining the historical roots of the Airman star and chevrons.

Senior Air Force leaders, former chief master sergeants of the Air Force and Airmen throughout the service encouraged a redesign of the CMSAF insignia. In 2002, the process began to select a stripe that would be an even stronger representation of our enlisted force.

"A lot of people, including my predecessors, have said that the current stripe, although it is a distinctive stripe, may not be



Chief Gerald Murray explains his new stripes. (Courtesy photo)

easily recognized," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray.

"Many young Airmen thought the stripe should have more or be more. They tell me, 'It's hard to tell the difference between you and other chiefs.'" That distinction is important, Chief Murray said, because the chief master sergeant of the Air Force is the senior representative of more than 300,000 enlisted Airmen.

This new stripe clearly identifies who represents them to the chief of staff, the secretary, Congress and the American people."

Revised 'Enlisted Force Structure' now available

The revised Air Force Instruction 36-2618, "Enlisted Force Structure," was recently released and lays out concise standards, expectations and opportunities for every enlisted Airman.

- One of the most visible aspects of this version of the AFI is the standardization of enlisted duty titles. Titles are based on a person's primary duties, level of responsibility and rank. The new structure applies a consistent, standard approach to give the title universal meaning.

- AFI 36-2618 establishes general Airman responsibilities and refines both general and specific responsibilities for

each level of the enlisted force. As Airmen are called to action in many different capacities, it's vital all Airmen know and understand their role in the Air Force structure.

- Clearly defining our purpose and development as an enlisted corps is more critical today than ever.

"AFI 36-2618 is a blueprint for enlisted success in our great Air Force," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray in December.

To view or print the new AFI 36-2618, "Enlisted Force Structure," visit <http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/pubfiles/af/36/afi36-2618/afi36-2618.pdf>.

CMSAF on fitness programs

"The program hasn't been fully embraced enough. Some have taken the test, and they've put too much emphasis on the test instead of making working out a part of the normal routine. I asked a first sergeant about his squadron's fitness program. He said, 'Well, we've just about got everyone tested.' I said, 'OK, but tell me about your physical fitness program. I want to know what you're doing to get people out there to work out.' He couldn't tell me." — **Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray, at Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England, on the need to continue a physical fitness routine.**

Officials announce Future Total Force initiatives

by Tech. Sgt. David A. Jablonski

Air Force Print News

Air Force officials plan six initiatives to tap into the inherent strength and experience of all three Air Force components in an effort to increase overall combat capability.

The initiatives, announced Dec. 1, fall under the Future Total Force plan that put Airmen from active duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units together for specific missions.

Each component has unique strengths that combined; produce a more effective combat force and efficient peacetime force, officials said.

"For nearly two years, we've been working future total force initiatives that will enable us to meet the challenges of the 21st century with a smaller, but more capable Air Force," said Air Force Secretary Dr. James G. Roche.

Officials hope the initiatives meet the challenges of a shrinking budget, aging aircraft fleet, and new and emerging missions by improving the use of people throughout the total force.

The six test initiatives involve Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units in Arizona, Virginia, Vermont, Utah, Texas, New York and Nevada.

The Virginia Air National Guard will partner with Langley Air Force Base, Va., in the transition to the newest fighter aircraft, the F/A-22 Raptor. The Guard unit will provide one aircrew to attend initial training.

Community basing places 10 active duty maintainers in the Vermont Air National Guard's 158th Fighter Wing. The purpose of this move is to capture the experience of the ANG senior maintainers and help train less-experienced active duty crewmen.

At Hill AFB, Utah, the Air Force Reserve Command's 419th Fighter Wing will integrate into the active duty 388th Fighter Wing. Both units are at the base and fly the F-16 Fighting Falcon. The wings will combine operations to give the Air Force an opportunity to evaluate the Reserve and active duty partnership in the fighter community.

Texas and Arizona will incorporate the RQ/MQ-1 Predator Un-

manned Aerial Vehicle into the Guard and Reserve to support global operations. Guard Airmen can take advantage of the reach-back capabilities associated with the Predator and operate the UAVs. Officials anticipate a low turnover rate within the Guard and Reserve forces will significantly reduce UAV training costs.

The establishment of a distributive ground station in western New York to process global intelligence information will further test the Reserve role in reach-back missions. The mission is a partnership with the Army and the New York Army National Guard at a location to be determined.

The Air Force will integrate Guard and Reserve Airmen into all mission areas of the Air Warfare Center and Predator operations. The center, at Nellis AFB, Nev., manages advanced fighter training and integrates many of the Air Force's test and evaluation requirements. The deputy chief of staff for plans and programs, Lt. Gen. Stephen G. Wood, said he views the three components of the Air Force as equal partners.

"We have taken great pride in our seamless integration of expeditionary operations and feel the time is right to try this integration at home. The test cases will confirm the effectiveness of our future integration activities as we respond to the challenges of modernization and recapitalization and execute the decisions resulting from the (base realignment and closure) process," General Wood said.

An important goal of the initiatives is to reduce the family and community separations caused by long reserve mobilizations.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper told House Armed Services Committee members that while reconstitution of air expeditionary forces is not moving as quickly as expected, the concept is battle-proven.

"Last February, when I sat in front of this committee, we talked about the reconstitution of our air expeditionary forces and the fact that we were in the midst of experimenting to see if the AEF concept actually worked," General Jumper told more than 30 legislators.

"I can report our ability to pull eight of our 10 AEFs forward to engage in major combat operations, and then reset those, has been a success."

AFDD 2-4.1, Force Protection, now online

All Airmen in some way are expected to contribute to force protection.

A familiarity with the new Air Force doctrine document on Force Protection, Air Force Doctrine Document 2-4.1, provides each individual a better understanding of his or her role in the total Air Force function of Force Protection. AFDD 2-4.1 is available on the Headquarters Air Force Doctrine Center Web site at <https://www.dctrine.af.mil>.

AFDD 2-4.1, Force Protection, presents the USAF's best operating practices for force protection at the operational level of war.

The document discusses how commands should best organize for force protection, the types of threats, and how to counter those threats.

Force Protection is the "integrated application of offensive and defensive actions that deter, detect, preempt, mitigate, or negate threats against Air Force air and space operations and assets, based on an acceptable level of risk."

Commanders at all levels and all specialties should understand this document because force protection is much more than doctrine for Security Forces and a command responsibility.



Four earn Lance Peter Sijan award

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN)—Four Airmen are being recognized with the service's Lance P. Sijan Air Force Leadership Award.

The Sijan award annually recognizes a senior and junior officer and a senior and junior enlisted person who demonstrates outstanding leadership abilities while assigned to organizations at the wing level or below.

The 2004 recipients are:

— **Lt. Col. Mark Moore**, who is assigned to Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Colonel Moore managed an aggressive flying hour program and led multiple deployments. He developed the concept of operation for the critical international security assistance force expansion. Additionally, he oversaw the plan for integration of four new nations into the northern region, ensuring their smooth integration into the vital air policing operations. Briefing and educating distinguished visitors, his articulate style has been essential in bringing the diversity of NATO into sharp focus for operations in Afghanistan and the Baltics.

— **Maj. Joseph Michalek**, who is assigned to Hurlburt Field, Fla. Then a captain, he used his vast tactical expertise to prepare six crews under his command for sustained combat deployments in one of the most complex integrated air defense systems in the world.

He spearheaded the move from an undisclosed location to Baghdad to enable his forces to become more operationally relevant during the initial counterinsurgency operations in Iraq. Upon arrival at Baghdad International Airport, Major Michalek formulated a plan supporting special operations throughout Iraq.

— **Master Sgt. John Spillane**, who is assigned to Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. As loadmaster superintendent of the 745th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, he led his deployed team of 66 active duty and Reserve loadmasters to unparalleled success in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He devised a C-130E- and H-model differences program allowing loadmasters from different C-130 Hercules units to fly with one another, giving the commander greater combat flexibility.

Sergeant Spillane also created a two-loadmasters-per-aircraft plan to help scan for surface-to-air missiles in the higher threat environments, greatly aiding crews in recognizing incoming threats and reacting properly. He identified a four-rocket attack on his aircraft, quickly vectored his crew and aircraft away from the danger and defeated the threats, resulting in the safe delivery of 20 patients to a medical treatment facility.

— **Tech. Sgt. Matthew Fader**, who is assigned to Hurlburt. Sergeant Fader executed missions while under fire inside Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He flew 92 combat sorties, and delivered 231 passengers and 510,000 pounds of cargo.

Sergeant Fader also airdropped 250,000 leaflets and moved 30 vehicles supporting the operation. As standardization and evaluation superintendent, he expertly directed a \$1.3 billion functional-check-flight program for 10 MC-130H Combat Talon IIs.

Captain Lance Peter Sijan

Lance P. Sijan was the first graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy to receive the Medal of Honor posthumously for heroism above and beyond the call of duty. His spirit and determination inspired a fellow prisoner of war to nominate him.

Sijan was born in April 1942, and graduated from Bay View High School in Milwaukee, Wis. He originally planned to attend the Naval Academy. However, he was attracted to the prestige

and quality education of the Air Force school, plus he had developed a love of flying. He played football, but quit the team in his senior year to concentrate more on his studies. After graduation in 1965 from the academy, he attended pilot training. Then he was assigned to the 366th Wing, at Da Nang Air Base, Vietnam.

On his 52nd mission, 25-year-old Sijan ejected from his F-4C Phantom after it was hit Nov. 9, 1967, over North Vietnam. A search-and-rescue crew, Jolly Green 15, radioed to Sijan that they were sending down someone to assist him, but Sijan refused to put another person in danger. He asked that a penetrator be lowered instead. However, he couldn't grab the dropped steel cable, and after 33 minutes the rescue team faced enemy fire and had to leave.

Even with no food and very little water he managed to avoid capture for 45 days.

Because of a serious compound fracture of the left leg, he was unable to walk but did manage to pull himself backward through the jungle. Even with a broken leg, a skull fracture and a mangled right hand he was able to escape shortly after his initial capture. Upon recapture he was taken to Vinh and thrown into a bamboo cell. He was 'interrogated' repeatedly, and in spite of his captors technique of twisting his damaged right hand he refused to disclose any information but his name.

Sijan was soon moved to a POW camp at Hanoi. Even in his emaciated condition, he attempted more escapes all meeting with failure. His physical condition continued to weaken without proper food or medical attention. He developed additional respiratory problems including pneumonia in January 1968. After many months of ill treatment, his health broke. Sijan was removed from his cell during the night of Jan. 21, 1968, and died the following day at Hoa Lo according to his Vietnamese captors.

He was promoted posthumously to captain on June 13, 1968. On March 4, 1976, President Gerald Ford presented the Medal of Honor to his parents, Sylvester and Jane Sijan.

The U.S. Air Force Academy named Sijan Hall, a cadet dormitory, in honor of him on May 31, 1976. Additionally, the U.S. Air Force honors Air Force personnel who exhibit the highest example of professional and personal leadership standards with the Lance P. Sijan Award. (Sources compiled from U.S. Air Force Museum and the Air Force News Agency.)



Air Force aims for 'weapons-grade' vision

by Ms. Sue Campbell
59th Medical Wing Public Affairs

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN)—In June, the Air Force vice chief of staff and surgeon general approved wavefront-guided LASIK surgery for aviators in aircraft flying at altitudes of less than 14,000 feet. WFG-LASIK is a new generation of laser eye surgery that maps subtle irregularities in the cornea before the procedure, providing crisper vision and fewer side effects following surgery.

Standard LASIK is based on the person's glasses prescription. WFG-LASIK adds a measurement of more subtle total eye distortions, called higher-order aberrations. Based on technology that helps astronomers see twinkling stars more clearly, waves of light are sent into the eye and measured as they bounce back, forming a 3-D map of each person's unique wave patterns.

"WFG-LASIK is a major warfighter readiness issue which allows for less down time and quicker return to the cockpit for the Air Force's aviation population. This is critical in today's expeditionary forces' get-to-the-fight-quicker environment," said Col. (Dr.) Robert Smith, chief of cornea and refractive surgery at Wilford Hall Medical Center here. "WFG-LASIK is a 'performance enhancement' procedure, and Air Force pilots feel this surgical procedure gives them a competitive or combat edge in the fight."

Dr. Smith, who also serves as refractive surgery consultant to the Air Force's surgeon general and program manager of the Air Force Warfighter Refractive Surgery Program, performed the first aviator WFG-LASIK treatment in September using the VISX-S4 wavefront laser. The VISX-S4 is currently being used by all Air Force treatment centers.

"That aviator now has 20/12 vision (better than 20/20 vision) without glasses and tells me that his night-vision performance has been tremendously improved," Dr. Smith. "This is the typical result that I call an 'improvement to the human weapon system,' which gives our pilots the competitive edge in their work environment."

The Air Force now has five Warfighter Refractive Surgery Centers and has performed more than 25,000 treatments since August 2000, when refractive surgery was approved by the Air Force's surgeon general and chief of staff. Nearly 25 percent of the procedures were conventional and custom LASIK.

The Air Force is currently involved with the Navy in a collaborative WFG-PRK study to obtain Food and Drug Administration

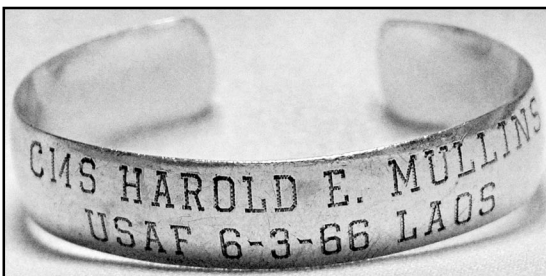


Col. (Dr.) Robert Smith performs LASIK eye surgery on a patient at Wilford Hall Medical Center here. Certain aviators can now undergo a new laser eye surgery procedure. Dr. Smith is chief of cornea and refractive surgery at the medical center. (U.S. Air Force photo by Ms. Sue Campbell)

approval for WFG-PRK using the new VISX Fourier Custom treatment algorithms. This procedure gives the patient a more customized treatment with the potential of better visual acuity.

"Initial results are very promising with quality vision results better than the original treatment profiles," said Dr. Smith.

At this time, WFG-LASIK is not approved for those aviators in high-performance aircraft (such as fighters and trainers) or those whose aircraft have cabin altitudes potentially above 14,000 feet. Conventional LASIK was not approved for any aviator.



Reservist returns bracelet worn in remembrance

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — Master Sgt. Sheila Couzins wore this POW/MIA bracelet in remembrance of Chief Master Sgt. Harold Mullins who was missing since June 1966. She returned the bracelet to Chief Mullins' family after his remains were buried in Arlington National Cemetery in November. (Courtesy photo)

Medical news

Enlisted IMA turned active duty officer visits ARPC to say 'thanks'

Article and photo by Tech. Sgt. Rob Mims
ARPC Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Lorrie Cappellino, Air Reserve Personnel Center Director of Health Services, recently was afforded the opportunity to present an Air Force Reserve Command SG coin to First Lieutenant Robert Barrientos who stopped by ARPC SG this week to thank the staff for their outstanding support while he was an individual mobilization augmentee.

First Lt. Barrientos was an enlisted medical IMA, assigned to the 759th Surgical Operations Squadron at Wilford Hall Medical Center in San Antonio since Nov. 16, 2000.

As an IMA, Master Sgt. Barrientos provided support as a cardiopulmonary technician for the Critical Care Air Transport Teams and Air Expeditionary Forces.

He mobilized twice for periods of one year in support of Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom And Operation Iraqi Freedom. Then, Master Sgt. Barrientos, earned a Bachelor in Business Administration degree in Finance from the

University of Texas in San Antonio and recently earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Webster University.

Once he finished his degrees, he applied for the Air Force Commissioning program and was subsequently commissioned into the United States Air Force in May.

He recently attended Commissioned Officer Training and the Air Force Health Service Administration Course for which his flight earned top academic awards.

Excelling is nothing new for now First Lt. Barrientos; he earned the 2001 Enlisted IMA of the Year. Since he was mobilized when those annual awards were given, his award was mailed to his deployed unit and presented to him by his deployed commander.

Nearly three years later here at ARPC he



Lt. Col. Lorrie Cappellino gives an AFRC/SG coin to 1st Lt. Robert Barrientos in a ceremony Dec. 7.

finally received his AFRC SG coin for being "IMA of the Year."

He is now on active duty and headed to his new assignment at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., where he will be assigned to the Medical Resource Management Flight. Since it was on his way, he stopped by ARPC, not only to receive the AFRC SG coin, but to just say "thanks."

'Andro' supplement off limits in new year

by Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Airmen who take androstenedione to increase muscle mass will soon have to ditch the supplement and just do extra repetitions at the gym.

Under a new law that takes effect Jan. 20, the prohormone androstenedione will be classified as a Schedule III controlled substance. Schedule III substances are those defined by the government as having a potential for abuse. The drug, commonly called "andro," is used by bodybuilders to help build mass, said Col. (Dr.) Vincent F. Carr, the Air Force's chief consultant for internal medicine services.

"Andro includes a number of compounds, which altogether are a precursor to the male hormone testosterone," Dr. Carr said. "Folks take this to bulk up their muscles and increase their ability to weight lift and to gain endurance for their exercise programs."

Other drugs listed as Schedule III substances include the anesthetic ketamine, called "Special K" by the club-goers who use it; testosterone, and forms of codeine and morphine.

Once ingested, Dr. Carr said, androstenedione is converted to testosterone. For androstenedione to create muscle mass, a user must take it in an amount that also causes side effects that are damaging to his or her health.

"Part of the problem is that if you take large amounts of androstenedione over a long period of time, you have the potential to develop liver disease, liver failure, heart disease, kidney disease and an acceleration of hardening of the arteries," Dr. Carr said. "For ladies, it may block some of the female hormones, so they may experience symptoms such as male-pattern baldness."

Because androstenedione creates artificial levels of testosterone in the body, natural production of the hormone can be reduced. Slowing the normal production of testosterone also affects a user's body.

"A male may find that because he doesn't have normal testosterone production, his testicles get smaller," Dr. Carr said.

Use of androstenedione is also known to reduce sperm count in men and to reduce breast size in women. The drug may also have psychological effects.

Androstenedione is found in many bodybuilding supplements that are available in nutrition and fitness stores.

On Jan. 20, androstenedione may no longer be legally purchased. It will also be illegal to use the prohormone, even if it was purchased before then. Use, possession, or distribution of androstenedione after Jan. 20 will be a violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

JAG and paralegal news

FY 05 JAG school courses

WOTS minimum 60 days prior to course

Mandatory IMA Judge Advocate/Paralegal Courses: Attendees will be notified by ARPC/JA if scheduled to attend in FY 05 and those required will be directed to submit a WOTS request a minimum of 60 days in advance.

- Reserve Forces Judge Advocate Course - May 9-13
- Reserve Forces Paralegal Course - May 9-20

Optional IMA Judge Advocate courses: If interested, submit a WOTS request 75-90 days prior to class start date. ARPC/JA will notify those selected to attend approximately 60 days before the course.

- Advanced Labor and Employment Law Course - May 23-27
- Environmental Law Update Course - June 27-29
- International Law Course - June 8-10
- Military Judges Seminar - April 19-22
- Operations Law Course (*must be scheduled or willing to deploy*) - May 16-27 and Sept. 19-29.

Optional IMA Paralegal courses:

If interested, the IMA paralegal must submit a letter to ARPC/

JA stating the reasons for wanting to attend the course. It must include the Law Office Manager's endorsement with their recommendation and why.

A board will be held to select attendees. Selectees will be notified to submit a WOTS request a minimum of 60 days before class start date.

- Law Office Managers Course - June 13-24 - Suspense: April 1
- Military Justice Administration Course - April 25-29 - Suspense: Feb. 1

If interested, submit a WOTS request 75-90 days before to class start date. ARPC/JA will notify those selected to attend approximately 60 days before the course.

- Operations Law Course - (*must be scheduled or willing to deploy*) May 16-27 and Sept. 19-29.

Hails and farewells

ARPC/JA bids farewell to Mr. Bill Hoerman. Mr. Hoerman received a job opportunity in California which allowed him to return to his family. His position is currently vacant. ARPC/JA welcomes Ms. Roberta Shulman. Ms. Shulman is processing all judge advocate annual and school tours. Tech. Sgt. Wanda Grady processes all other active duty tour requests.

Historians needed to help fill several billets

The Air Force Historical Research Agency at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., and the Air Force History Office at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington D.C., has openings for both officer and enlisted historians.

The billets at both locations are "Category B" individual mobilization augmentation slots, requiring IMAs to perform a minimum of 12 days of inactive duty for training per year and 12 days of annual training at either Maxwell Air Force Base or Bolling Air Force Base.

Applicants must be willing to deploy overseas. Some limited military personnel appropriations tours are available.

The mission is to provide a rapid reaction corps of historians ready for worldwide deployments as well as critical staff support needed at AFHRA and other requesting agencies.

In the past, IMAs have deployed in support of operations and contingencies in Somalia, Rwanda, the air war over Serbia, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, just to name a few.

Recently, IMAs have responded to requests for assistance supporting Special Operations Command, European Command, Pacific Air Forces, Central Command and the Joint History Office in the Pentagon.

Qualifications include a wide variety of talents. This office prefers to hire people with a background in history or political science, but practical military experience can be substituted.

A top secret clearance is preferred. Excellent administrative and computer skills are a must since deployments usually include computers and scanners used to collect copious amounts of information in

electronic format. When deployed, IMA historians usually comprise a two to four person Contingency Historical Information Preservation Team that performs data collection, written history support, oral interviews and preservation of historically significant documentation.

This office is also responsible for identifying, acquiring and organizing historical materials for safe analysis and evaluation.

When people think about history, they shouldn't just ponder the past.

This is an outstanding opportunity to see the Air Force in action. This office records current operations and the decision-making process that lead up to those events as they happen. Anyone interested in this challenging and rewarding assignment is encouraged to apply.

Submit applications to: Master Sgt. Christine Mackey, program manager at the Air Force Historical Research Agency, 600 Chennault Circle, Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6424 or via e-mail: Christine.mackey@maxwell.af.mil.

Application should include a completed and signed AF Form 1288, a resume and your last five military performance reports.

Briefs

Web site not available error in CDC 00009/6) NCOA

In Volume 2, Leadership and Management, Unit 1, Professional Environment, Chapter 1-6, Operational Risk Management (ORM) page 1-56; in Step 1 in the NOTE, students are instructed to complete training at: <https://rmis.saia.af.mil/training.asp>

That URL is no longer valid, the valid URL is now:

<https://rmis.kirtland.af.mil/default.asp>

Unfortunately, at the present, the ORM site is accessible ONLY from .mil domains. However, the Risk Management Information System folks have made a downloadable course available; you can get it at: http://afsafety.af.mil/AFSC/RDBMS/Training/SEME_home.htm

For more information contact Chief Master Sgt. Billy King william.king@maxwell.af.mil.

Reserve magazine changes Web address

The official magazine of the Air Force Reserve is getting a new Web address.

Citizen Airman's new address is www.afrc.af.mil/news/citizenairman/index.htm

In addition to moving to a new Web home, *Citizen Airman*, published for more than 76,000 reservists across the globe, is getting a new look. The changes, which took effect with the publication of the October issue of the magazine, were made to bring more continuity to Air Force Reserve Command's presentation of official news and information on the Web.

Portal allows Airmen to chat with friends, family

Airmen at home station or a deployed location can now send instant messages to their friends or loved ones whenever they have access to the Internet. The Air Force recently implemented the "Friends and Family Instant Messenger" program, available through the Air Force Portal.

The Air Force has offered instant messaging through the portal for more than two years though the chat was limited to Airmen and civilian employees only. Under the new program, Airmen "sponsor" friends or family onto the portal by entering their e-mail addresses into the system. The portal then generates e-mails inviting them to log on and get their own specially configured account. Airmen can have up to five people added to the system.

To use the online chat, Airmen first need to get an Air Force Portal account. To sign up, visit <https://www.my.af.mil>. For more information, go to the story on Air Force Link at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123009448>

SERE graduates authorized berets

Students who complete the Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape specialist technical school here are now qualified to wear the new SERE beret. The pewter-green beret is worn with the SERE specialist device, which depicts a bald eagle in front of a compass rose with barbed wire across it. The beret solidifies the

Combat Rescue Officer, SERE and Pararescue communities as a united weapons system.

The Air Force SERE career field is the only specialty in the Department of Defense responsible for recruiting, training and employing SERE specialists. For more information, go to the story on Air Force Link at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123009412>

TSP begins catch-up contributions enrollment

Air Force Personnel Center's benefits and entitlements service team automated systems is available for 2005 Thrift Savings Plan catch-up contribution enrollments. TSP catch-up contributions are additional tax-deferred contributions, separate from (regular) contributions. Eligible Air Force-serviced civilian employees may enroll for catch-up contributions online at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST_GRB/EBIS.htm or through the BEST phone system. The online system is also available through the Air Force portal at www.my.af.mil. For more information, go to the story on Air Force Link at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123009371>

Drug testing increased for troops in Afghanistan

The Defense Department has increased drug testing for troops stationed in U.S. Central Command's area of operations. The testing is especially needed in Afghanistan, officials said, where the "poppy problem" was even a portion of President Hamid Karzai's inauguration speech. Drug testing will continue to be an important part of the demand-reduction effort in the department. For more information, go to the story on Air Force Link at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123009396>

Strategic forces authorized service medal

The commander of U.S. Strategic Command has authorized the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal for all servicemembers assigned, attached or mobilized to the command for at least 30 consecutive days on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

The medal is awarded to people involved in supporting operations against terrorism anywhere in the world. It is worn after the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. Both follow the Kosovo Campaign Medal. Only one award of this medal may be authorized for any individual; therefore, there are no service stars.

New agreement will strengthen network security

In an initiative to secure computers and networks worldwide, Air Force officials entered into an agreement with Microsoft to purchase software and support for more than a half-million computers. Under the agreement, in partnership with Dell Computer Corp., all existing Air Force software and support contracts will be combined into one. The resulting contract will affect about

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Briefs

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525,000 computers. By purchasing software for the whole service under one licensing agreement, the Air Force will save \$100 million over the course of the contract.

Another part of the Air Force's agreement will provide for low-cost software for Airmen to use on their personal computers. For a little more than \$20, Airmen will have the option of getting a copy of Microsoft Office for use on their home computers. Airmen will receive notification through their major commands as how best to take advantage of the low-cost software purchase. For more information, go to the story on Air Force Link at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123009418>

Policy changes help wounded troops stay

Fundamental changes have taken place in the Department of Defense's disability policy. Advancements in medical treatment and recovery allow many more wounded Airmen to resume their careers. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld supports keeping capable servicemembers in the DOD fold. Defense personnel officials also are looking for ways to improve opportunities for veterans with disabilities in DOD's civilian work force. For more information, go to the story on Air Force Link at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123009386>

Airman magazine releases annual almanac issue

The January 2005 issue of *Airman* features an extensive database on organizations, bases, commands and weapon systems, pay charts and much more. The January issue is used by many people as a desktop reference on the Air Force. Look for it in your unit, or contact your public affairs office.

DoD Transition Portal

The Department of Defense Transition Portal Web site offers a significant amount of information for demobilizing troops to help them transition back to civilian life. The site offers a downloadable pre-separation guide that includes an individual transition plan, information on making a career change, employment assistance, relocation assistance, education and training, finances, health and life insurance and much more.

USERRA is great for those folks who had a job before they were deployed. For those who didn't, www.dodtransportal.org can help. For additional transition assistance go to www.taonline.com

'Military One Source' helps with problems

Military One Source is a one-stop place to go whenever servicemembers or family members need assistance with any kind of problem anytime, worldwide.

Military One Source provides information on a gamut of situations: from needing a plumber in the middle of the night to fix a broken pipe, to needing veterinary service for a sick dog. It also helps families new to an area find childcare, or information about the school system and summer jobs. People should not be afraid

or embarrassed to seek help from Military One Source. The person at the other end of the phone is not going to be judgmental about the situation.

Military One Source toll-free numbers are (800) 342-9647 in the United States, (800) 3429-6477 outside the United States (where available) and (484) 530-5747 to call international collect.

For more information, read the Air Force Print News story at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123008091>.

PME Career Development Courses

Members who need to enroll in a mandatory Career Development Course or a Professional Military Education course by correspondence can go to <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil>, Main Subjects, Education and Training then find the CDC PME ORDER FORM. Members must ensure that they fill out the form completely.

The Test Control Office is the nearest installation nearest the member. If the location is not an approved AF TCO, ARPC will contact the member. Once an order is placed, the materials/test should arrive in four to five weeks.

People who need to change their mailing address, TCO address, request an extension or have a questions can use this form.

The ARPC Web site will indicate (under COURSE CATALOG), what courses are available, enrollment requirements, and enrollment limitations. Questions regarding the Web site, can be directed to arpc.dpmatmilttrng@arpc.denver.mil.

Airmen receive AEF ID cards

All Airmen are now receiving air and space expeditionary force identification cards. Card usage ended during the height of operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom because six to eight AEFs were deployed at the same time.

The information on the cards provides predictability and stability by allowing Airmen to plan around deployments to schedule leave, professional military education and temporary duties. The front of the card tells Airmen their assigned AEF pair, and the back shows the new 20-month cycle chart, which began in September.

For more information, go to the Air Force Link story at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123008532>.

Chaplain news

Atlanta in April

Mark your calendar for April 19 - 21, and plan to take part in the first Air Force Reserve Chaplain Service Worldwide Workshop. The event will take place in Atlanta and will combine IMA and unit personnel in one training conference.

Watch your mail, e-mail and the Update for further developments and details!